

Word For The Week

17 January 2020

Preaching Dates

Saturday 18 January 2020

Charles Sommerville (am) at
Men of Faith Breakfast, Milngavie

Sunday 19 January 2020

David W Andrew (am) at
Tillicoultry EU Congregational
Ian Barr (am) at Vale of
Leven Baptist Church, Alexandria
David Bebbington (am) at Bothkennar &
Carronshore Parish Church, Falkirk
Glen Cartwright (am) at
Fusion, Newton Mearns Baptist Church
Bill Haining (am) at
Bridge of Don Baptist Church
Stephen Ilett (am) at Alness Baptist Church
Eric Macarthur (am) at
Dalbeattie Baptist Church
Jim McNulty (am) at
Round Church, Bowmore, Islay
Jim McNulty (am) at
St John's, Port Ellen, Islay
Charles Sommerville (am) at
United Free Church, Broxburn
Ian Stephen (am) at Borders General
Hospital Chaplaincy, Melrose

David Craig (pm) at Ayr Baptist Church
Cheryl Leckie (pm) at
Airlie House nursing home, Ayr
Alistair Mackay (pm) at
McCarthy Stone, 'The Granary', Dumfries

Monday 20 January 2020

John Mark Donaldson, (pm) preaching at
Women's Fellowship, Peterhead Baptist
Church

Wednesday 22 January 2020

Charles Sommerville (pm) at
Shettleston Baptist Church



"A Combination That Works!"

By Douglas Inglis

I was reading again recently the beginnings of Jesus' earthly ministry in Matthew 4: 23-25. Jesus had just called His first disciples, His ministry had barely begun, yet Matthew, in his first report, was able to write:

"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom and healing every disease and sickness among the people".

You will be impressed as I am, with the positive "no-nonsense" tone of Matthew's report. Jesus taught, He told the Gospel story, and He cared deeply about the health and well-being of all who came in contact with Him.

Of course that is not new to us – yet every so often I need to be reminded of the fundamentals of my discipleship. And maybe some churches, too, need to re-appraise their programmes and ministries. For whatever good causes receive our time and support, we must never depart from the Jesus imperative of teaching God's Word, finding ways to tell the gospel story and caring for everyone whose lives we touch.

We are still in the first month of a new decade, and it falls at a time when our world seems to be in turmoil. And to add to the chaos, the "communications revolution" has altered substantially the way we relate to one another. Unfortunately the quality of debate at various levels has turned confrontational, and in some circles, toxic. In political life, exchanges are all too often one-liners to put the other person down, rather than constructive debate **to create a vision for the future.**

So here we are, at the start of this new decade - custodians of a message of love and hope. I wonder if this is a good time for us to boldly define and patiently preach a new vision, one that could transform society.

There is, I think, a gap between the world as we know it to be, and the world as it is meant to be. So where do we start? May I suggest that as people who have the privilege of preaching God's word, let's prepare well, let's preach fearlessly, and let's live consistent Godly lives! We won't change the world tomorrow, but I am confident that God can use us to make our society a better place.